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CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE AGENCY

Memorandum



SOVIET MILITARY FORCES
IN CUBA

15 November 1962

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MEMORANDUM: Soviet Military Forces in Cuba

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4. Other Soviet military units remain in Cuba.*
There are four Soviet armored combat groups, each

*The tentative figures given here suggest 6-10,000 men in the combat groups and another 6,000 manning SAM sites. Thus a total of 12-16,000 Soviet troops could be in Cuba, exclusive of airforce and air defense personnel other than those at the sites.

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of which could have between 1,500 and 2,500 men, depending on composition. They are located in camps near Artemisa, Santiago De Las Vegas, Remedios, and Holguin. Each group consists of highly mobile composite forces equipped with some of the most modern Soviet weapons.

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6. The 24 surface-to-air missile sites are manned and supported by an estimated 6,000 Soviet PVO troops. In addition, there are an unknown number of Soviet troops manning other elements of the Soviet air defense system.

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7. We have no indication that Cuban personnel have control of the IL-28 aircraft being assembled, and therefore we assume that some additional Soviet military personnel are involved in this program.

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10. All of these forces are probably in addition to Soviet military personnel assisting and training Cubans in a military aid capacity; i.e., for naval ships, aircraft and land armaments being turned over to Cuba by the USSR.

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